3-month summary

- Impacts from cold weather are less likely than earlier this winter
- For February to April overall, there is an increased likelihood of mild conditions
- Slight increase in the likelihood of the period being wet
- Increased likelihood of impacts from heavy rain and strong winds

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature

5% chance the season will be COLD	50% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	45% chance the season will be MILD
0.3× the normal chance	0.8× the normal chance	2.3× the normal chance

Precipitation

15% chance the season will be DRY	55% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	30% chance the season will be WET
0.8× the normal chance	0.9× the normal chance	1.5× the normal chance

Wind speed

10% chance the season will be CALM	55% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	35% chance the season will be WINDY
0.5× the normal chance	0.9× the normal chance	1.8× the normal chance

1-month summary

- The chance of a mild February is higher than normal
- However, impacts from cold weather remain possible
- Likelihood of a wet and windy month is higher than normal

1-month likelihood of impact

Temperature

10% chance the month will be COLD	40% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	50% chance the month will be MILD
0.5× the normal chance	0.7× the normal chance	2.5× the normal chance

Precipitation

20% chance the month will be DRY	45% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	35% chance the month will be WET
1.0× the normal chance	0.8× the normal chance	1.8× the normal chance

Wind speed

15% chance the month will be CALM	50% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	35% chance the month will be WINDY
0.8× the normal chance	0.8× the normal chance	1.8× the normal chance

Understanding the Outlook

The Outlook uses 3 categories for possible UK temperature, precipitation and wind speed in the next 1 and 3 months:

COLD, NEAR AVERAGE and MILD for temperature
WET, NEAR AVERAGE and DRY for precipitation
CALM, NEAR AVERAGE and WINDY for wind speed

These are linked to observed UK conditions in past years. The NEAR AVERAGE category represents typical conditions for the period and has a normal likelihood of 60%. The higher and lower categories represent more unusual conditions that are more likely to produce impacts. Each has a normal likelihood of 20%.

The Outlook shows how the chances of occurrence of the categories differ from normal, based on knowledge of expected global meteorological patterns. It does not identify which category will actually occur.

Same 3-month period over the last 10 years

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
COLD	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	COLD	MILD	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD
DRY	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE
NEAR AVERAGE	WINDY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WINDY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE

Same 1-month period over the last 10 years

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	COLD	MILD	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD
DRY	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	WET
CALM	WINDY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WINDY	NEAR AVERAGE	WINDY

Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for February to April

The impact of global weather patterns acts to shift the chances of the categories in the Outlook. Their influence on the UK tends to peak during winter. Drivers relevant to the current Outlook are:

- La Niña, which increases the chance of westerly winds
- A westerly phase of the QBO, increasing the chance of westerly winds from the Atlantic
- The Madden Julian Oscillation crossing the Indian Ocean increases the chance of westerly winds in early February

Long-range weather predictions

The Met Office and other prediction centres around the world routinely produce long-range predictions of conditions in the months ahead. There is good agreement on increased chances of west or southwesterly wind during February and February to April overall. However, there is uncertainty as to whether high pressure will be centred across or to the south of the UK. This will influence the frequency of rain-bearing systems and spells of strong winds.

Impact

The greatest chance of impacts from wet and windy weather looks to be early in this period. Although there is increased likelihood of wetter-than-average conditions for the UK as a whole, rainfall amounts across southern parts of the UK are less certain. Additionally, compared to earlier in the winter, spells of cold weather are less likely. Moving into spring, there are signs that high pressure could become more dominant, leading to a greater likelihood of calmer and drier conditions compared to earlier in the period.

Outlook compared to normal likelihood

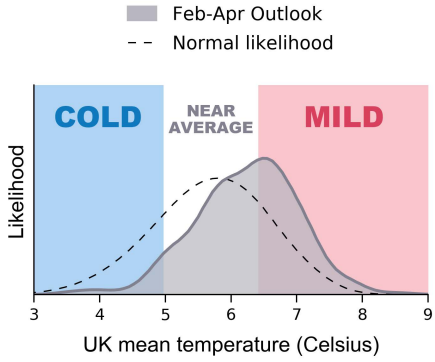
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature, precipitation and wind speed taking specific values. In each case:

- The dashed curve shows the normal likelihood based on how often each value has been recorded in past years
- The solid curve shows the current likelihood based on the Outlook for this year

The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature, precipitation or wind speed at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood of occurring. Likewise, wherever it is below the dashed curve, the likelihood of those values is less than normal.

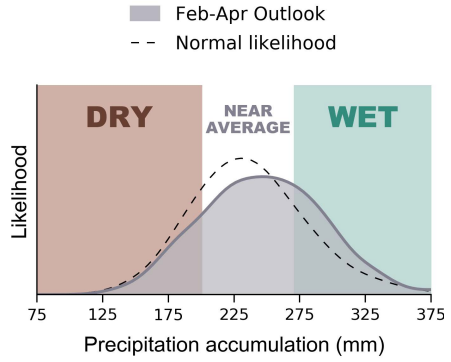
A shift of the solid curve to the left of the dashed curve indicates an increase in the chances of below-average temperature, rainfall or winds. A shift to the right, meanwhile, indicates increased chances of above-average values.

3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



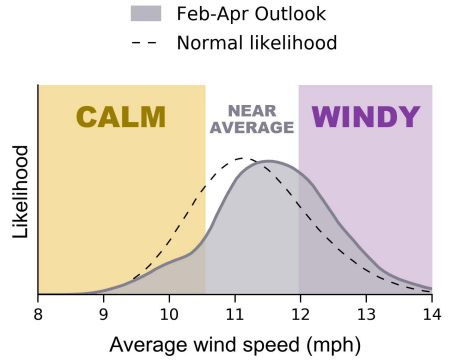
Likelihood leans towards mild

3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



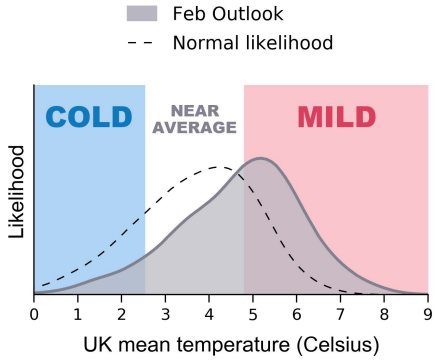
Likelihood slightly leans towards wet

3-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



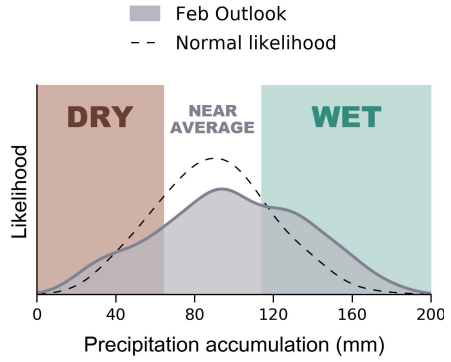
Likelihood moderately leans towards windy

1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



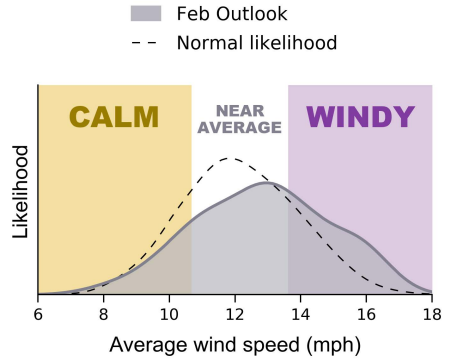
Likelihood leans towards mild

1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



Likelihood moderately leans towards wet

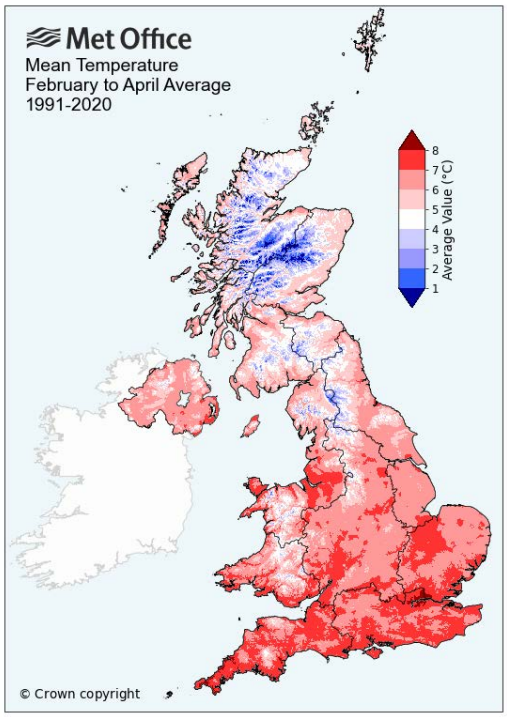
1-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



Likelihood moderately leans towards windy

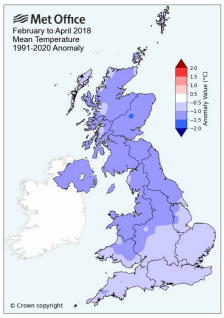
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

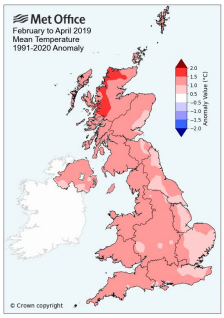


Average temperatures for February - April based on observations of past years.

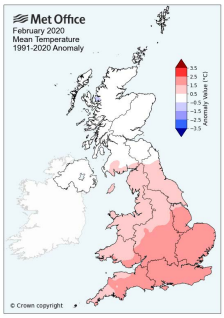
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (3-month)



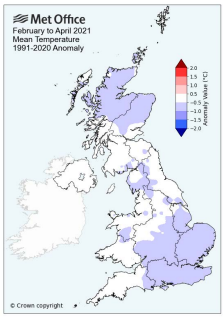
Feb - Apr 2018



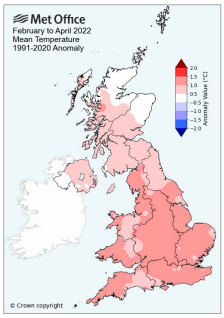
Feb - Apr 2019



Feb - Apr 2020



Feb - Apr 2021



Feb - Apr 2022

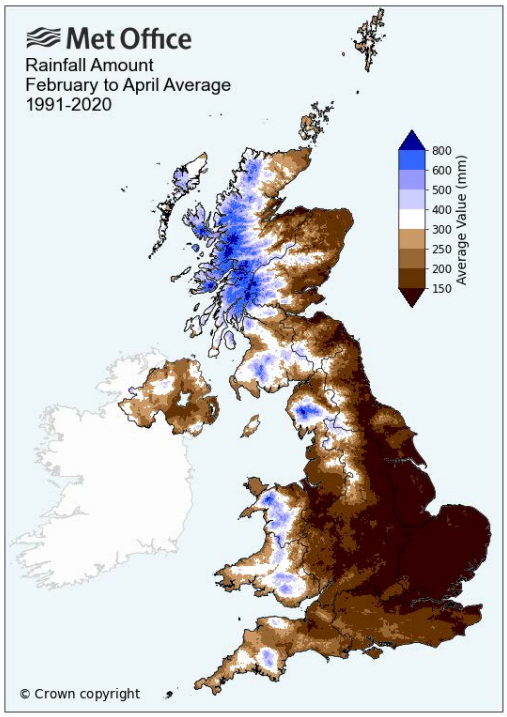
Anomaly (°C)

< -2.0	-2.0 to -1.5	-1.5 to -1.0	-1.0 to-0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.0	1.0 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.0	> 2.0

These maps show how February - April temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown above in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate milder-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate colder-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

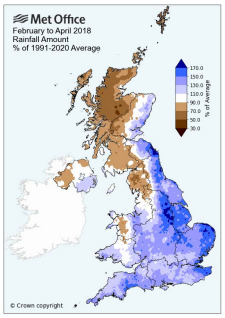
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

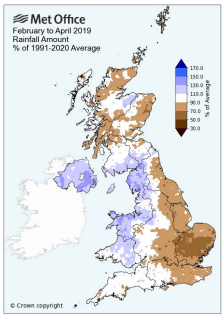


Average precipitation for February - April based on observations of past years.

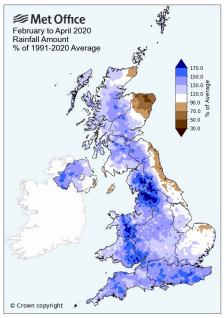
Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (3-month)



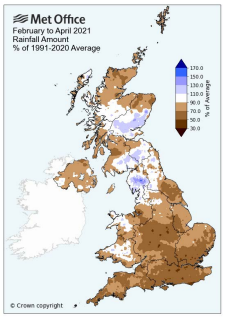
Feb - Apr 2018



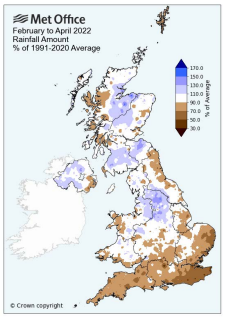
Feb - Apr 2019



Feb - Apr 2020



Feb - Apr 2021



Feb - Apr 2022

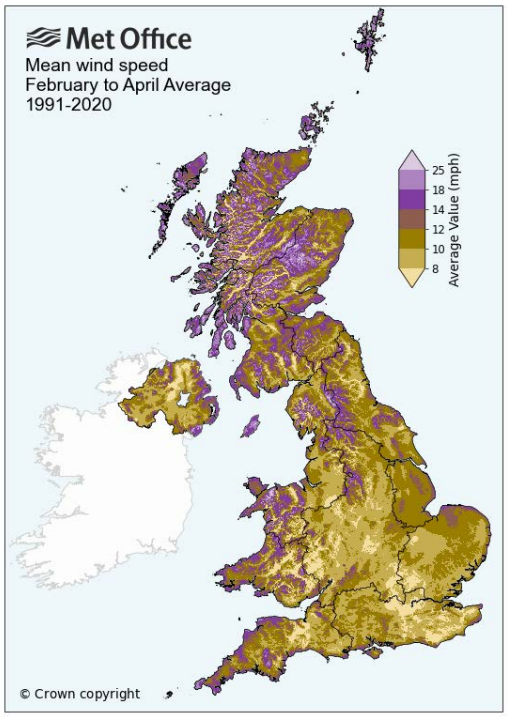
% of average

< 30	30 to 50	50 to 70	70 to 90	90 to 110	110 to 130	130 to 150	150 to 170	> 170

These maps show how February - April precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

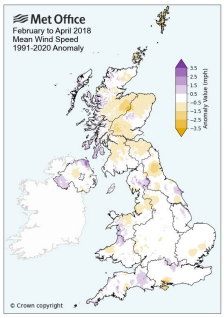
Long-term average wind speed (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

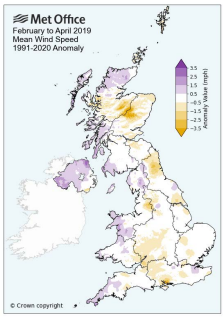


Average wind speed for February - April based on observations of past years.

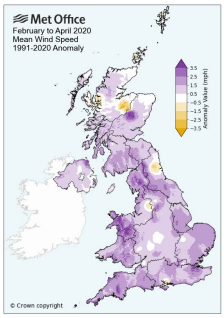
Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (3-month)



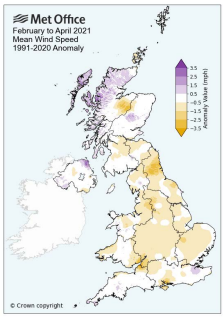
Feb - Apr 2018



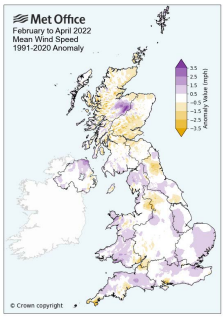
Feb - Apr 2019



Feb - Apr 2020



Feb - Apr 2021



Feb - Apr 2022

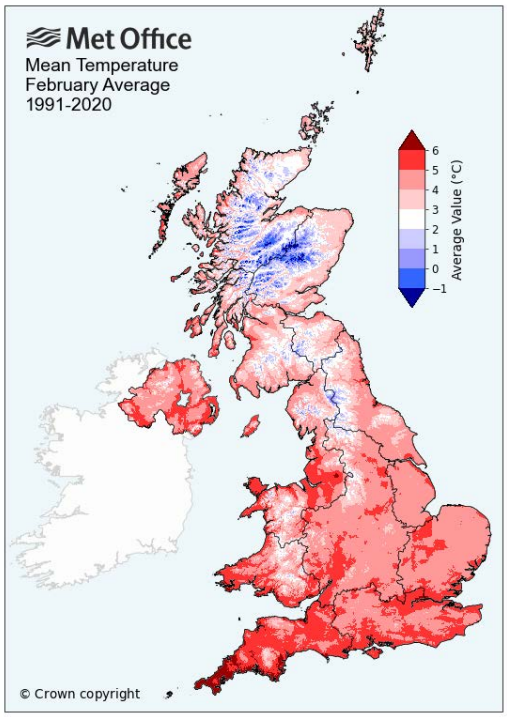
Anomaly (mph)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how February - April wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

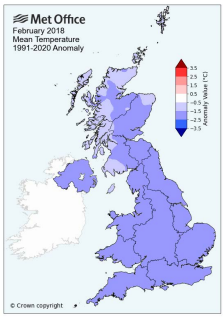
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

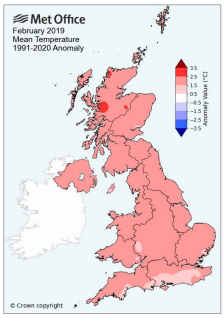


Average temperatures for February based on observations of past years.

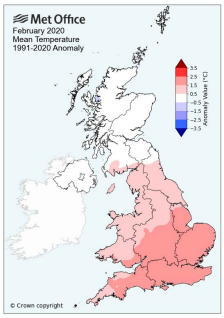
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (1-month)



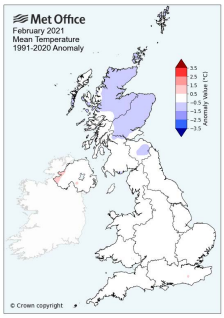
Feb 2018



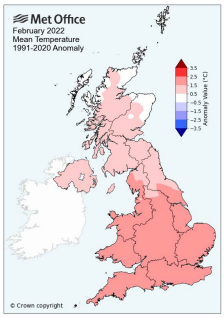
Feb 2019



Feb 2020



Feb 2021



Feb 2022

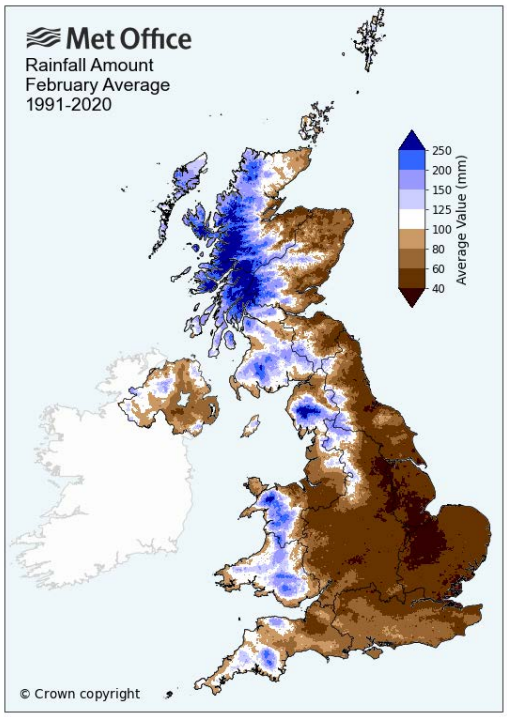
Anomaly (°C)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how February temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown above in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate milder-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate colder-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

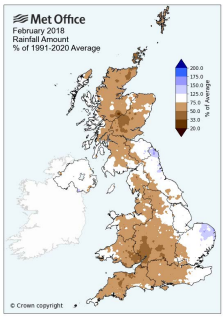
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

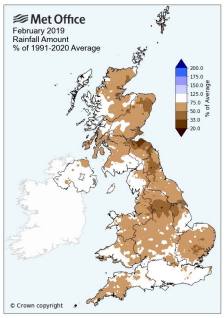


Average precipitation for February based on observations of past years.

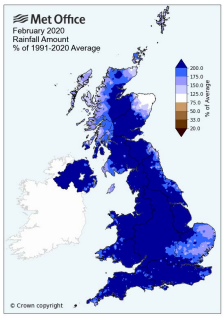
Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (1-month)



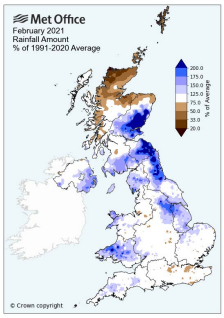
Feb 2018



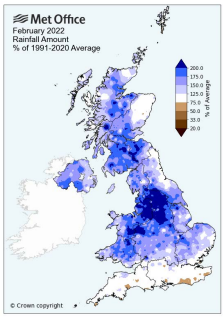
Feb 2019



Feb 2020



Feb 2021



Feb 2022

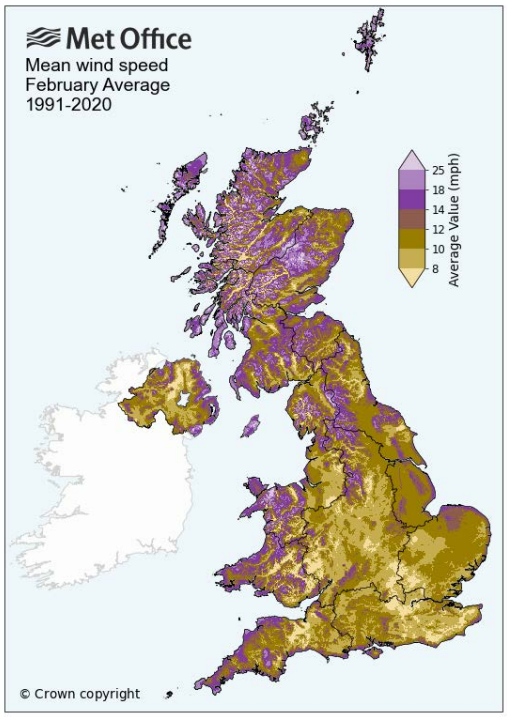
% of average

< 20	20 to 33	33 to 50	50 to 75	75 to 125	125 to 150	150 to 175	175 to 200	> 200

These maps show how February precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

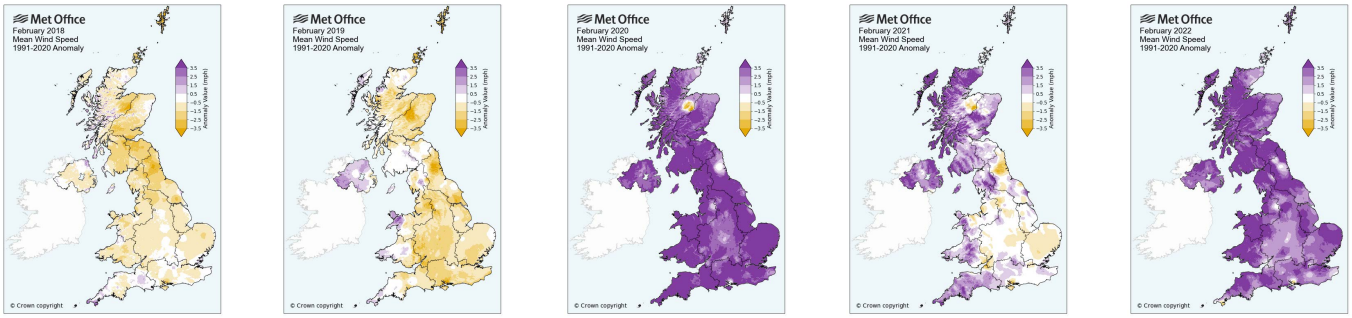
Long-term average wind speed (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.



Average wind speed for February based on observations of past years.

Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (1-month)



Feb 2018 | Feb 2019 | Feb 2020 | Feb 2021 | Feb 2022

Anomaly (mph)

< -3.5 | -3.5 to -2.5 | -2.5 to -1.5 | -1.5 to -0.5 | -0.5 to 0.5 | 0.5 to 1.5 | 1.5 to 2.5 | 2.5 to 3.5 | > 3.5

These maps show how February wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

Q&As

Q. What is the point of the Outlook, who is it meant for?
A. This Outlook is produced for planners in government and business who make risk-based decisions. These users are aware of the complexities of this type of outlook and will include those factors in their decision-making process.

Q. How did you decide on the Outlook? What are the main factors affecting it?
A. It is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. See the 'Outlook in Context' section of the Outlook for more details.

Q. Is the Outlook for the whole country?
A. The Outlook is for the average of conditions over the UK as a whole. Regional deviations from the UK-average can occur. For example, average UK precipitation can result from below-average rainfall for the northwest and above-average for the southeast.

Q. How confident are you in this Outlook?
A. The percentages in the 'Likelihood of Impact' sections of the Outlook give the level of confidence.

Q. With the Outlook suggesting an increased chance of mild, wet and windy weather - does this mean we will see more named storms?
A. The Outlook indicates westerly or south-westerly winds are more likely than usual, bringing weather systems from the Atlantic across the UK increasing the chance of windy, or even stormy, and mild weather, particularly early in the Outlook period. While this could increase the chance of named storms the Outlook cannot specify the timings of specific events or their potential severity or duration. Some colder spells many still occur even if the season is mild overall.

Q. Does this outlook mean there is an increased chance of flooding?
A. The Outlook shows an increased chance of wetter than normal conditions earlier in the Outlook period which could result in an increased likelihood of flooding but it cannot specify the severity, location, duration, or timings of specific weather or details of potential impacts, such as flooding. Those concerned about flood risks should monitor our severe weather warnings and forecast information on our forecast pages, as well as check their flood risk and any warnings with the Environment Agency, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales or NI Direct.

Q. The Outlook mentions an increased likelihood of mild conditions but there has been a Sudden Stratospheric Warming so will we have cold weather?
A. The late January Sudden Stratospheric Warming (SSW) appears to be a minor SSW event and looks unlikely to have a dominant impact on our weather in the UK. The Outlook indicates the chances of a cold February overall are lower than normal. It is possible we might see some cold spells and wintry impacts but the Outlook does not tell us if, or when, any cold spells might come along. Later in the period there is a greater chance of more settled, drier conditions with high pressure likely to dominate our weather.

About the Outlook

The Outlook presented here is for United Kingdom as a whole and is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. It is updated monthly to reflect the latest information on global weather patterns and their effect on the UK. The Outlook is designed to be used in conjunction with shorter-range forecasts – detailed weather forecast information is available on the Met Office website.

In this product, temperature refers to the average of daytime maxima and night-time minima. Wind speed refers to the average wind speed at a height of 10 metres. All numerical values relate to averages (temperature, wind speed) or totals (precipitation – rain, sleet, snow and hail) over 1 or 3 months, which are further averaged over the UK land area as a whole. Normal likelihood and long-term averages are established using the period 1991-2020.

Find out more

- UK 3-month Outlook user guidance page:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/user-guidance/user-guidance
- Explainers on climate drivers (such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation and North Atlantic Oscillation) that influence seasonal forecasts and the impacts they can have on UK weather:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/seasonal-forecasts-and-climate-drivers-resources
- Contingency planners page:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index

Contact us

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Provide your feedback

We would like to hear your feedback on the UK 3-month Outlook to understand how it is being used. Please fill in the short form using this link or QR code to share your thoughts.